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**REMARKS**

Applicant's attorney acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claim 9.

Claims 1, 8, 14, 16, and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, claims 2 through 5, 10, and 15 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 9. Claims 3 through 7 and 10 through 13 have each been amended in minor respects for consistency of terminology with the other claims.

It is believed that the claims as hereinabove amended place this application in allowable form because the remaining dependent claims all depend from allowed claim 9, either directly or indirectly. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination of this application is respectfully requested with a view toward the issuance of an early Notice of Allowance.

The examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if this amendment raises any questions, so that any such question can be quickly resolved in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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